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*The History*  
*of the* 50 Years  
*First Fifty Years*  
*of*  
*Carthage Ind.*  
*and Vicinity*

by Caroline A. Clark



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Clark, *Caroline A*

History of the first fifty  
years of Carthage, Indiana and vi  
vicinity

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RESPONDING TO THE CENTENNIAL SPIRIT IN INDIANA, THE COMPILER OF THIS HISTORY OF CARTHAGE AND VICINITY, MRS. CAROLINE A. CLARK BEGAN HER WORK. SHE ACKNOWLEDGES HER OBLIGATION TO ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED HER, ALSO TO THE HISTORY OF RUSH COUNTY AS WELL AS TO THE MEMORANDA, OLD LETTERS AND BUSINESS PAPERS BELONGING TO THE FAMILY.



# *The Early History of Carthage and Vicinity*

## *Carthage, Rush County, Indiana*

The early history of this part of Rush County began in 1821 in the settlement of Thomas Hill and his brothers on the west side of Blue River. His son, Milton Hill, was the first white child, born in 1822. Thomas Hill lived in Ripley Township long enough to see the wilderness developed into a beautiful land, dotted with many happy homes. He died after a busy and useful life on May 2nd, 1879.

Andrew Tharp was an early settler with several children. He was appointed overseer of the poor in 1822. He improved to a considerable extent the land which Henry Newby bought of his heirs in 1833 and the land which Tristram Cogshell afterwards owned. He died after several years and was buried on a part of his land which John Clark bought of his heirs in 1835.

Benjamin Snyder entered 160 acres of Section 25 in 1823 and improved it by building comfortable buildings and tilling considerable land, put out a fine orchard and a young nursery of improved trees. This farm he sold to John Clark for \$8.00 per acre. After looking for another home he was sorely hurt that he had parted with his farm in Ripley Township.

Dayton Holloway came early. It is said that he cut the first road from Knightstown to near Carthage, settled on a part of Section 25 across Blue River to the west, and assisted in building the Robert Hill mill in Carthage in 1828. It is said he lost his membership with Friends by accepting the office of Justice of the Peace. He was public spirited and well equipped for a pioneer. He was a blacksmith and a carpenter and with a company built the Holloway mill one mile south-west of Carthage in 1833, which he owned until his death in 1847.

John Walker was born in Virginia, December 26th, 1793. He was the son of Charles and Jane (Short) Walker. When quite young he removed with his father to Ross County, Ohio. Here he grew to manhood, and at the age of twenty-two he married Eliza R. Jefferson, a young lady of English family, eighteen years of age. In 1818 John removed with his wife and two small children, Lewis R. and Kittie L., to Fayette County. He settled at the place where Lyon's Station now is, and entered nearly a section of land in Rush County, and on to which he removed in 1823. While in Fayette County, John W. and William L. were born. His first cabin was erected near the spot on which now stands the commodious residence of his grandson, Commissioner William L. Walker. Here were



born James O. and Edward T. In 1828, on August 4th, while John Walker was in Ohio on business affairs, his wife died, and ere the return of the pioneer to his family, the companion and mother of his children had passed away. The wife had been dead two weeks before he returned. On January 8th, 1829, he married Rachel Russell, a native of Ohio, born September 27th, 1808. The following are the children of this union: Benjamin R., Eliza J., Henry F., Rachel A., Lindley I., Festus H., Samantha E., and Sarah E. There are today four sons living, viz.: Louis R., Benjamin R., Lindley I., and John W. The father, the subject of this sketch, lived to a ripe old age. He was a pioneer in the broadest sense—in the opening up of a new country, in the establishment of educational facilities and religious work. He donated the land for the church and school house at Franklin Chapel, took care of the Methodist pioneer preachers, was one of the early Justices of the Peace, and did quite a lively business in tying the nuptial knot for the pioneer lovers. The fee for marrying a couple was \$1.00, and frequently the groom would work for the Squire three or four days to pay him for the ceremony. John Walker was County Commissioner, elected on the Whig ticket, and served on the Board with Peter Looney and George Mull. He was then a young man, and was Commissioner before the Mexican war; was captain of the militia in his township, and while in Ohio was enlisted in the War of 1812, under what was known as the General Call. He received his education in the pioneer schools of Ohio, was industrious and frugal, and at the close of a busy life he beheld in part the realization of his hopes. He died September 25th, 1875, and lies in the burying ground at Franklin, with which spot he was long familiar. After the Republican party was formed, he acted with and voted for its principles.

Note.—This sketch of John Walker is taken from the "History of Rush County, Indiana, 1888," by permission of William L. Walker, grandson of Pioneer John Walker.

Daniel Clark, son of John and Ann Clark, was born in Loudon County, Virginia, Third Month first, 1759, and was married to Mary Sanders, daughter of Hezekiah and Martha Sanders of Guilford County, North Carolina, Sixth Month fourteenth, 1792. His home at that time was in Orange County, North Carolina.

John Clark, son of Daniel Clark, was married to Nancy Hussey, daughter of Jediah and Agatha Hussey, of Randolph County, N. C., on Tenth Month, the 1st, 1821. John Clark gave the following account of his father, Daniel Clark, who died of cancer in 1812, when John Clark was 16 years old: "I well remember in the spring of 1812 when my father was first seriously alarmed about his chance of life that he took me with him about thirty miles to Dr. Starbuck and there he stayed a while, sending me home with the horses we rode. On parting he looked affectionately on me and said to the following effect. 'Dear son, thee must go home, but I want thee to seek the God of Heaven to be thy father and then whether I ever go home or not it will be sure to be well with thee.' This he expressed with so much tenderness and anxiety of countenance that I believe I remember every word just as he expressed it."—John Clark, 24th of Eighth Month, 1845.



Those who have heard John Clark tell this sad story of his young life—the oldest son, who must take the place of father in the family and carry heavy burdens on young shoulders, could not doubt but that he started with the intention of carrying out in his life the loving advice of an almost dying and deeply anxious parent, and that he would put forth his best energies and judgment to fulfill his whole duty to his widowed mother and the family all younger than himself with the exception of one sister. The Friends in the Southern slave states many of them left comfortable surroundings in a balmy climate for the free Northwest that they might train their children in an atmosphere of freedom both of soul and body. John Clark was one of these. He first visited Richmond, Ind., whither a goodly number of relatives and acquaintances had emigrated in 1808, particularly the Clark and Hill families. His business in his native state was merchandising and farming. He purchased while around Richmond a very large horse, which he rode home. When moving his family in company with other emigrants, this same large horse, harnessed to a carriage, brought his wife and six children to Indiana in 1832. He bought the Benjamin Snyder farm for \$8.00 per acre and the mills the same year and moved his family into the mill dwelling house built by Robert Hill and sons. In 1833 he sold the mills to Abraham Small. In company with Dayton S. Holloway, Bethuel C. White and John Winslow, the Holloway mill, southwest, one mile down the river, was built. In August, 1834, John Clark again bought the Carthage mills with 112 acres of land of Robert Hill and Rebecca Hill for three thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars, cash in hand, and the same month laid out the town and named it. He began building over the mills in 1838 and in company with Henry W. Macy as superintendent of the mills enlarged and repaired to the amount of \$5,262.00. He sold the mills to Ephraim F. Randolph in 1846, having been owner for thirteen years. He was liberally minded toward every improvement for the public good, bore his full share of labor and care for the promotion of good schools, good roads, good homes, good farms and good citizenship. His widowed mother came to Indiana and lived in Carthage and enjoyed the affectionate care (with an unmarried daughter) of her son until her death in 1854, at the age of 87 years. X

Harmon Allen was an early comer, probably as early as 1832 or 1833. His wife was a daughter of Daniel and Martha (Sanders) Clark. His trade was saddle making, most families needing two, one for men and a side-saddle for women. He and his wife brought up a large and interesting family. Harmon Allen invented tools to run a plane by horse power and has the reputation of inventing the planing mill. He lies buried in the Friends' burying ground.

Joseph Overman was born in Wayne County, near Centerville, on April 7th, 1817. He was the son of Nathan and Elizabeth (Ratliff) Overman. His parents settled on their farm in Indiana Territory in 1813, having spent two years in Richmond, then a small town on the frontier. They left North Carolina about 1811. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the farm of his father, and attended the common schools of the neighborhood. The first school house he attended was without any floor except mother earth, and other conveniences in accord. In the spring of 1838, he came with his father's family to Ripley Township, Ruth County.



and bought a farm of Micajah Binford, which was occupied at that time by Henry Maey. In 1836-7, Joseph attended school at Centerville, under the tutorage of that pioneer of Indiana educators, Samuel K. Hoshour. It was in this school that he became acquainted with Oliver P. Morton, who was a pupil. This mutual friendship lasted until the death of the old "War Governor." In 1838, he attended school again in Centerville, and in the fall of the same year he taught in Rush County. In 1839, Mr. Overman married Eleanor Commons, one of his former pupils. She was the mother of ten children, as follows: Cyrus W. (insurance business), Oliver P., Ezekiel, Lydia Ann, Sarah E., Irene Emma, Horace, Julian, and Mary E. Mrs. Overman was the daughter of Ezekiel and Sarah (Julian) Commons. Her mother is still living, at the age of ninety-four, with her daughter, Mrs. Hatfield. On July 13th, 1870, Mrs. Overman died, after a life full of usefulness and responsibility. She was a noble woman, a good and kind mother, and loved by her neighbors. On the 8th of January, 1873, Mr. Overman married Susan Thornburg. There were no children as the result of this marriage. Susan Thornburg was the widow of John Paxson, by whom she had two children, both married. Under the old school law, Mr. Overman was one of the three Township Trustees. In 1863, he took his place on the Board of County Commissioners, to which he had been chosen at the preceding election. He served satisfactorily for seven years, during some trying times. In 1871, Mr. Overman removed to Carthage, and was made a member of the Board of Education, and held the place for seven years. He assisted in the consolidation of the Friends' School, and township and town corporations, and helped to make the Ripley Township and the Carthage schools what they have been and are at present. In 1879, Mr. Overman bought the farm on which he now resides, of Samuel Gates, and moved to it the same year. Here he resides contentedly, a public-spirited gentleman, and liked by the people. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a Republican.

Note.—The foregoing account of the life of Mr. Overman is taken by consent of his children from "The History of Rush County, Indiana" published in 1888.

John Morris settled half a mile east of Carthage and cleared a farm. He was associated with Friends in the establishment of the meeting in 1839 and was the first treasurer in the meeting. The minutes show him to be diligent in that delicate office. Jesse Morris was a brother and also cleared a farm for himself adjoining John Morris on the east. Jesse Morris had a liking for clearing land and did much in that way for himself and others, and while engaged in this laborious work he had a sunstroke from which he never entirely recovered. He was religiously inclined as a boy and committed to memory a number of the books of the Old Testament. When over 80 years old these chapters were as clear in his memory as when he first knew them. He was known to repeat them to his friends.

Robert W. Young settled on a farm two miles east of Carthage and was a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He was the father of Joseph W. Young, Edward C. Young and William Young. William was a cabinet maker and served an apprenticeship in his native city of seven years. His work can still be found in old-fashioned houses to his diligence and



credit. Edward Young became a minister, beginning his religious life in Carthage Friends' meeting.

Joseph W. Young, before mentioned as the son of Robert and Rebecca Young, was of English ancestry. He was born Twelfth Month 7th, 1814, in the city of Baltimore. He enlisted as a sailor and on a voyage around the world visited the Holy Land. Later he became a teacher, and in 1829 was recommended by Barnabas Hobbs, who was head of a school near Richmond, Ind., as an assistant teacher at Walnut Ridge. Here he became acquainted with Sarah Binford, daughter of Micajah Binford, and later they were married in Walnut Ridge Meeting. He was public spirited and a lover of books, and for several years carried on quite a trade in the community. Some of the old libraries contain Josephus' History of the Jews, Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History, Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, Rollin's Roman History, The Spectator, the standard English poets, Thomas Dicks' works, Clarkson's "Portraiture of the Quakers," and many journals of prominent Friends.

Joseph W. Young was influential in starting a school for colored children on his farm. One father brought his four children with him to school, the five coming the distance of two miles to school on two horses. The father learned to keep his accounts in the three months term. Hezekiah Clark taught that year. Some of the colored men held debating schools and lectures in this house.

#### **HISTORY OF FRIENDS' MEETING READ AT THE OPENING OF THE BRICK MEETING HOUSE IN 1881. BY DAVID MARSHALL.**

"The first settlers who were here were Friends and constituted the meeting known as Walnut Ridge about 2½ miles west of Carthage. They were Thomas Hill, Jonathan Hill on the east, and John Hill, Nathan Hill and Simson Taylor further west in 1821. Jesse Hill was probably the first Friend who settled a little east of Carthage in 1826. In the same year came the four Binford brothers. Micajah Binford settled on the west side of Blue River on a section of land adjoining Robert Hill on the east side. From 1826 to 1837, Jonathan Jessup, Abraham Small, Luke Newsom, Jonathan Pierson, Henry Henley, Thomas Draper, Eliah Henley, John Winslow, John Clark, Henry Newby, Harmon Allen, William Johnson and Joel Thornburg. In 1837 came Joseph Henley and family. Nearly all these Friends had families of energetic young people as well as others who came later and all belonged to Walnut Ridge particular meeting, Duck Creek monthly and White Water quarterly meetings. It would be interesting to tell how these pioneer mothers would take one or two children on horseback when only pathways were roads, and wading through mud and stinging nettles, spice and other brush, attend meetings for worship and discipline while the father went on foot; how they lived on wild meat and corn bread and labored to subdue the forests, and how they mutually depended on each other to roll logs, build houses and stables, etc., all of which made every man truly neighbor to the rest. Carthage Preparative Meeting was established in the latter part of 1839 in a frame house 30 x 36, on the site of this new brick house, and included Friends on the west side of the river. In 1858 the house was enlarged to



double its former size. From 1840 to 1864 the meeting had but one minister, William Binford. Since that time the meeting has recorded Hezekiah Clark, David Marshall, Jared P. Binford, Mary N. Henley, Henry C. Aydlette, and Rhoda H. Mare. Mary Ann Huestis and Keturah Miles have been received by certificate of removal. The membership is now (1882) 358."

### CHURCHES.

The meetings of the Friends in Ripley Township were very largely made up of the members of the meetings of two counties of North Carolina which joined each other—Randolph and Guilford counties—where their ancestors had intermarried so that they were nearly all relatives, either near or more remote. Many of these pioneers and their children lived to be from 80 years to 90 years old.

Joel and Anna Thornburg settled at Walnut Ridge in 1831. Anna was recorded a minister in 1836. She was gifted in speaking to individual conditions as well as in public worship and during a long life in her home meetings and in most meetings on the continent where the Friends were congregated she went to preach the unsearchable riches of the Master she loved. She was accompanied by many Friends in her journeyings both east and west. John Clark, with his cousin, Tamar Hill, went with her to North Carolina in 1837 in a carriage. Thomas Hill went with her as helper and assistant companion to New York and New England yearly meetings in 1842. She visited Philadelphia Yearly Meetings and Iowa Yearly Meeting later and the families of the same, very often speaking in private to old and young. She lived in the spirit of our Divine Master. Anna Thornburg was born in Guilford County, N. C., in 1794 and died in 1866.

### CARTHAGE PREPARATIVE MEETING.

John Clark	John Winslow	Jabez H. Henley
Joseph Henley	Hezekiah Henley	Charles Henley
Henry Newby	Elias Henley	John H. Newby
Nathan Overman	Jonathan D. Stratton	Micajah Henley
Abraham Small	John Morris	William Johnson
Thomas Henley	William Binford	Martin Wiltsey
Jesse Hill	Barnabas C. Springer	John Wiltsey
Tristram Cogshell	Luke Newsom	Harmon Allen
Henry H. Maey	Jonathan Jessup	Davis Gray
Henry Henley	Thomas Draper	Jonathan Pierson

These are the names of the men Friends taxed to support the meeting. The women had their separate business meeting. John Morris was appointed to receive all moneys raised for the year. Tristram Cogshell, Henry H. Maey and Nathan Overman were appointed to select a suitable place for a graveyard, clear and enclose the same and report their care and expense, which was \$19.29. There were three committees appointed at the opening of Carthage Preparative Meeting in 1839—a committee on Indian affairs, one on the people of color, and a third on the care of the poor—showing that a missionary spirit existed.



### THE WESLEYAN CHURCH.

The Wesleyan church was the second to be organized in Carthage. The first ministers were Daniel Worth and his son, Aaron Worth. Another was named Bookshire. The membership was not large. John Frazee and wife, Milton Hill and wife, John O'Neal and wife, Benjamin Nixon and wife and George Wiltsey and wife, and perhaps a few others made up the membership. Their church house was situated on Lot 25, now the home of John W. Johnson.

### SABBATH SCHOOLS.

"During the earlier years of the Carthage meeting a Bible school was held in the school house under the care of a committee during the summer season, attended by children and young people, and taught by William Johnson. In 1853 a superintendent was appointed and two classes formed—one for old and middle-aged, and others for the children. At the present time (1882) there are fourteen classes and the school goes forward throughout the year. The enrollment is about 150 at present, average attendance 100."

Written and read at the opening of the brick meeting house at Carthage, 1882, by David Marshall. The meeting was attended by several Public Friends of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodists who settled here earliest were both white and colored and for several years held their meetings in common. Carthage circuit was formed in 1857 by dividing the old Burlington circuit. Rev. George W. Winchester was the first minister in charge. The Carthage society consisted of eight members, as follows: John Walker and wife, Abraham Weaver and wife, George Weaver and wife, Euclid Stokeley and Huldah Tullis. The first year they added ninety-four members. The colored Methodists are celebrating their seventy-second anniversary this year, 1916.

### CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Joseph Shannon was an early Christian minister and held meetings in his home near Riverside. Drury Holt, Gabriel McDuffy, John Kiplinger, Henry Haywood and others were early members and workers.

### WORK OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Ripley Township, 7th Mo., 2nd, 1835.

This day complaint was made to us Micajah Binford and John Clark overseers, for Elizabeth Stanards, a poor girl sick and destitute of any help. After examining her case we directed a physician called, and for her to be nursed at Maddock Grewell's, the home where she was taken sick and staid there — days for which we are willing he should be paid the sum of \$4.80. She was then removed to Nathan Hill's and taken care



of two weeks for which he charges \$2.50 to be paid his girls. The girl then recovered her health so as to be no further expense.

The doctors Whitsel and White's bill.....	\$16.00
Haddock Gruwell .....	4.80
Nathan Hill .....	2.50

4th Mo., 26th, 1836.

On this day complaint was made to us stating that William Winburn was in a suffering condition and destitute of the necessary support. After examining his case we have agreed with John Winburn to furnish him with the necessaries for one month from this date for \$5.00.

### MANUMITTED SLAVES.

Friends and other conscientious persons freed their slaves in the slave states and for safety sent them to the free states. According to a statement in a memorandum book dated as early as 1830 is found this statement: "632 persons of color have been removed to free governments, the expense thereof was \$12,769.51, about \$9.60 cash are remaining under friends' care. As near as has been reported—402 voting (the expense of these at \$20.00 each) would cost upwards of \$8,000 and the available funds to be short \$2,000."

### SCHOOLS.

Schools were held in several different cabins around the edges of the settlement from time to time pretty early for young children—probably the first near town was taught by Henry Henley in 1830 and 1831. The first school house built for that purpose was on Abraham Small's farm and was the house moved to town in 1840. A pioneer school house was on Benjamin Snyder's farm. John Walker said a school was taught in 1826. Andrew Tharp taught there in 1828 or 1829. A hewed log house stood where Franklin Chapel now stands, and Levi Hill, son of Jesse Hill, taught there in 1833. A log school house was built in 1832, north-east of Carthage, on Ulrich Siler's land, now owned by Charles Henley. The Friends were enthusiastic on the subject of education of their children, and were careful to provide the best teachers to be found in early times. William Johnson was among the first to teach in the new school house, and in a letter written in 1845 he was still head teacher. "Diza Thornburg is assisting William Johnson in his school and is getting \$5.00 of his \$20.00 a month. Henry Macy Jr., Harmon Allen Jr., and Isaac Hill are all the large boys. Mary Newby, Mary Henley and Anna Macy are all the large girls." The teachers' names in part after 1845 were Eli Mendenhall, George Hunnicut, Joseph Young, Louis Johnson, Samuel Crow, Hiram Hadley, Daniel Clark, Thomas Newby, and Hezekiah Clark. Women teachers from the first were Martha Tharp, Judiah (Mendenhall) Henley, Diza Thornburg, Lizzie Thornburg, Ann Henley, Kate Steere, Emma (Clark) Gary and Eunice (Henley) Publow. These schools were subscription schools. The teachers, after the scholars had mastered the common branches, taught algebra and geometry, chemistry and philosophy, having two teachers and two rooms. Many of the children of the pioneers spent some time at the boarding school at Rich-



mond, Ind., Earlham College. A goodly number from time to time have graduated and filled places of trust and honor. Most of the young people who had the privileges of this school taught school more or less. Luzena Thornburg, who was one of three graduates of the first year at Earlham, and Daniel Clark were the most noted of these teachers—both making it their life profession.

The history of the mills and carding and cloth-dressing factory, around which industries cluster so many activities of growing farm settlements, was bought by Ephraim F. Randolph in 1846. After some years Ephraim F. Randolph sold to his brother-in-law, Charles Bloomfield. Hugh L. Risk was owner or part owner for a time and in 1863 the property came into the possession of the firm of Henley and Aydlotte. They thoroughly repaired and almost rebuilt the grist mill, put in a frame dam on driven piling for a foundation, believed to be the best on Blue River. The capacity of this mill was 75 to 100 barrels of flour per day. This was done at a heavy expense. On the night of June 26, 1879, this valuable property was destroyed by fire. In a short time the Henley brothers, Joseph J., William P., and Robert B. Henley, purchased and rebuilt it, sparing no expense to have every part conform to the latest improvements in flour making, and their efforts were crowned with success and early in the following spring it was put in operation.

The woolen factory was enlarged from time to time—"removed to a building on the west side of the river, and beside machinery for picking, carding and spinning, there is one loom each for blankets, jeans, satinets and plaid flannels. Also a fulling mill, shearer, knapper, etc. During the past year this mill has worked up nearly 20,000 lbs. of wool, making 6,000 pairs of blankets, 3,600 yds. of flannels, 1,800 yds. of satinets and an equal amount of jeans, 10,000 lbs. of stocking yarns, and 1,500 lbs. of fancy yarns. This factory has been owned in connection with the grist mill." The saw mill was abandoned and others built—one by Henry Henley farther up the river, another in the southeast part of town in 1852 or 1853. Last season the Henley Bros., having purchased largely, sold a surplus of 40,000 lbs. to a firm in the city of Boston.

### MERCANTILE.

Benjamin Hill, son of Robert Hill, kept a small store of dry goods and groceries while building the grist mill and for some time after; he sold them to Hill and Stratton. Henry Henley in 1833 opened a store in company with his brother-in-law, Henry B. Hill, and in 1838 Charles Henley joined as partner. In 1840 there were two stores in Carthage under the names of Hill and Henley. Levi and Thomas Hill had the second. Charles Henley was in the mercantile business twenty-two years and in 1859 began the management of the flour and woolen mills, and continued for twenty-three years. In June, 1879, the grist mill burned. He then sold out to his nephews, Robert B. and W. P. Henley, who rebuilt the mill. In the spring of 1876 he engaged in the banking business, organized the first bank in Carthage, and was connected with it until his death. John D. Hill, Clarkson Hill and Samuel B. Hill owned the store several years from now on, until



the bank was organized in 1876. The Henley Bros., Robert B. and William P. Henley after they sold, owning it.

O'Brian Gwynne began business on a small scale in 1850, associated with William Johnson, a prominent member of Friends, who had previously engaged in mercantile pursuits in this place. William Johnson enjoyed a wide circle of acquaintances, having been a teacher of the Carthage school for a number of years, and the house takes pleasure in acknowledging that to him was largely due the influences which secured its success. The business embraced the usual articles of merchandise of a general store of that time. O'Brian Gwynne was Township Trustee for fourteen years. Allen Newsom began as a clerk with Mr. Gwynne in 1866 and was admitted to partnership in 1879.

In 1864 John Clark built a store house for his son, Hezekiah, on Lot 33, which he had reserved should one of his sons wish to go in business in Carthage. The same year a stock of goods was moved from the house then owned by Francis H. Macy, which Hezekiah had rented since the spring of 1862. The house was two stories, 25 x 60 in dimensions, and was well fitted for its purpose. In 1869, in August, the store and home of Hezekiah Clark were sold to Amos H. Treadway and Thomas Dryden and ten acres of land were opened for sale. Roads and alleys were opened in 1870 or 1871 and the whole added to the town under the name of Parkersburg. The store was again sold after several years. R. Edgar Henley has occupied Lot 33 since 1888. In 1907 his store burned and six months later he was doing business in a new, up-to-date building.

#### **COPY OF AN ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN CLARK, HENRY H. MACY AND JONATHAN LEAPHARD IN 1843:**

Witnesseth, That the said Clark and Macy this 30th day of the Eighth Month, 1843, do lease to Jonathan Leaphardt the woolen factory at Carthage for the term of four years commencing the first of Fourth Month next, with the privilege of repairing the machines before that time, including all the machinery therein, and the lower story is to be ceiled, a stove and plates for fulling, press and boards, stock to be well furnished, the dye-house, brushes and all furnishings for the accommodation of fulling, and he, Jonathan Leaphardt, is to have the dwelling house in Carthage all for \$450.00 annually—\$200.00 to be paid in flax seed or other trade that is customary, and to pay the usual prices for carding and fulling; \$250.00 in money due at the end of each year, to draw interest if not paid. The said Leaphardt is to put in a shearing machine, dye kettle and whatever else is necessary for the finishing of cloth, and all these articles are his property at the expiration of the lease.

Witnesses,

Elisha Prevo,  
Richard Johnson  
John Clark,  
Henry H. Macy,  
Jonathan Leaphardt,

Carthage, Fourth Month 24, 1847.



By mutual agreement between the within parties it is this day concluded to transfer the present year in said lease to John Budd, of Henry County, Indiana, and he, the said Budd, is to have the benefits of said lease and to pay to the said Clark and Macy one year's rent, to-wit: \$450.00 for one year. The agreement with John Budd was endorsed by Ephraim F. Randolph.

### WOVEN COVERLETS.

Samuel Stinger in the year 1833 came from Germantown, Ind., and bought and settled on a farm northeast of Carthage. He was a weaver by trade and built his house near a beautiful spring of water, as was the custom in early times. He was a weaver of the notable coverlets that decorated the beds of those early times. He paid \$100.00 for a loom built on the same principle as those on which flowered carpets are now woven. He could weave figures and flowers and letters and did a thriving business. People from all the adjoining counties brought him their work. He had material for blankets and coverlets in the house at times months ahead, for his customers had to wait their turns for their weaving. The coloring was done in the customer's home and the coverlets were half wool and half cotton, usually white cotton. They were any desired color and customers selected any pattern wished. The colors most commonly selected were dark blue, but red or any other color could be chosen. Many families had several of these serviceable bed coverings.

The price for weaving a coverlet was five dollars and one could be woven in a day. Benjamin F. Stinger, a son, became very expert in the business and when a young man took charge of the books and also of the weaving. The elder Stinger was not able to follow his occupation constantly and employed sometimes another German weaver for a time. He never got accustomed to the use of horses when young, and was afraid to try to handle them when older. He carried an apple tree in his hand as he walked from Germantown, Ind., to this vicinity, and the fruit from this tree was so fine that the family still keep a tree of the same kind. The coverlets were not woven after about 1860.

Samuel Stinger's wife was as thrifty and efficient as her husband and carried on her trade of eggs and butter with independence.

Samuel Stinger was a great hater of tobacco and whiskey, which was greatly to his credit. He was a native of Pennsylvania.

### EARLY BLACKSMITHS.

Dayton Holloway, who settled here in 1821, was the first blacksmith. The next was probably John Sears, who also made buggies. Isaac Nelson was also an early blacksmith. Davis Gray was a blacksmith, and also Jonathan Gray, his brother, in 1838, and probably earlier. Lewis W. Pierce was a wagon maker also, probably earlier. Amos Hill later was a blacksmith and had several apprentices, Oliver Coffin, Murray Rawls and others. A colored man was murdered in a blacksmith's shop by another colored man about 1844. The murdered man's name was Culver. The murderer's name was Benjamin Franklin. He died in the prison, probably insane.



### CARPENTERS AND MILL WRIGHTS.

Dayton Holloway and Bethuel C. White, pioneers of 1821 and 1822, were employed in wood work according to tradition and were busy men in the many improvements of the first twenty years of the settlement of Ripley Township. Their names are found very often in connection with new work of several kinds. The best carpenters in 1838 received \$2.00 per day and their names were Jesse T. Heacock, Jonathan W. Macy and Isaac James. Henderson Hutton was paid \$1.50 per day and others, presumably less skillful, \$0.87½ per day.

### EARLY DOCTORS.

× The first doctor was probably Verlin Kersey, in 1836; Dr. Stratton the next; Dr. Starbuck probably in 1842 or 1843. Dr. James Patterson came in 1846. Dr. John M. Clark came in 1849 and remained until his death in 1880.

### POSTMASTERS.

Henry Henley was the first postmaster during Jackson's administration. Part of the time his office was in his home.

W. H. H. Glass was probably the next and the office was in his tailor shop on lot No. 4. He was postmaster in the late 40's.

Morgan James was also postmaster for a time.

In the early 50's Francis W. Macy was postmaster in a house probably on Lot 34. In 1850 Henry H. Macy and Lewis Jessup built Francis W. Macy a house on lot No. 1, close to his store house. He kept the office until he moved to Kokomo in 1862 or 1863.

### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Daytn Holloway was an early Justice of the Peace. John Walker was a Justice of the Peace many years. Isaac Tullis was a Justice of the Peace in 1836. Milton Hill and Benjamin Nixon both had long terms.

Benjamin Hill, son of Jesse Hill, was elected to the state legislature in 1870. He was also appointed by the legislature as a director of the Southern Prison, which position he held about four years.

### TURNING LATHE.

Richard W. Johnson had a turning lathe in 1837 and turned the large wooden screws used in cheese and cider presses. He also made chairs and other furniture and was the first funeral director.

### COPY OF AN "ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT ON CLEARING LAND." THOMAS WHITE AND EDWIN JAMES.

Edwin James is to clear twenty-five acres of land for Thomas White of all except rail timber and enclose it with a nine-rail fence, and the said James is to have the use of the twenty-five acres for four years, except on one-half the produce on seven acres after the first year. The money price for clearing land is said to have been from \$5.00 to \$7.00 an acre.

### INTERESTING ITEMS.

Henry Phelps came to the neighborhood in 1830. At sixteen years of age he began to take trips to Cincinnati for Carthage merchants. He made eighteen trips on foot driving hogs to market.



John B. Earnest came to Ripley Township in 1833 with his widowed mother. In 1842 he married Marzetta Draper, daughter of Thomas Draper. They were the parents of six children. The family mostly belongs to the Christian church.

Benjamin Foust came to Ripley Township in 1832 and settled near Carthage. He married Cornelia Reed in 1855. Five children were born to this marriage. The family is of German descent and the wife belonged to the Christian church.

Linsey S. Herkless and Rebecca Herkless emigrated from Virginia in 1834 and settled in Rush County. They were the parents of several children. Their children and some of their grandchildren are still residents of this community. Their church affiliations were Presbyterian.

William and Richard H. Johnson, with their widowed mother, Susanna Johnson, settled in Carthage in 1835. They were natives of Virginia, and were helpful in the early improvements of the town in school, and mechanical and industrial pursuits.

A deed given by John Clark and wife in 1836 to Jabez H. Henley for \$275.00 was probably for Lots 27 and 28, where the Henry Henley public library now stands, which probably was the site of a store kept by Jabez H. Henley, Jason Williams and George Evans about 1836. The deed is among some old family papers. Benjamin Nixon bought this house and moved it on to Water Street.

Joseph Henley and his family settled near Carthage in 1837 and built frame dwellings the same year, now occupied by Jesse Henley, grandson of Joseph Henley.

Charles Henley was a very popular salesman. He made friends with the little children. "The children grew up his friends."

William Hill and family came early. His sons were Amos, Samuel B. and John R. Hill. They are remembered by their many skillful and helpful good works.

Henry Henly was a strong anti-slavery man and his first store in Carthage was a "Free Labor" store.

David Coble was an early carpenter and built quite a good many houses in Carthage. He was partner with Rice Cox in furniture and coffins in the shop which until recently stood across the alley from the bank.

William S. Hill and his brother, Hadley Hill, were blacksmiths. They were the sons of Nathan Hill.

Levi Laubaugh had a tin shop which was burned in 1869.

William Young, son of Robert W. Young, came to Carthage from Cincinnati (native of Baltimore), where he served seven years as apprentice in cabinet making. Some of his good work is still found in old-fashioned homes and it is a credit to its maker. John Street was a chair maker and had his shop in a school room used by his wife, Agatha Hussey, before her marriage. The building is now owned by Allen W. Newsom.

#### MILLINERY.

Nancy (Henley) Stanley was the Friends' milliner when all the Friend women wore plain bonnets. She learned of Anna Street after coming to Carthage, and afterward worked with Sarah Cadwaladar in Richmond, Ind. On her return to this vicinity Friends came from far and near for bon-



nets—from Plainfield and Grant County, from Spiceland, Little Blue and other parts.

Delana Bond, of Spiceland, a sister of Wyatt Stanley, was the companion of Anna Thornburg when she went to visit the Meetings of Canada

### EARLY DISEASES.

Malarial diseases were a constant affliction to the early settlers. Fevers in very bad cases were hasty in their course and quickly hurried their victims to the grave. Milk sickness was not uncommon. Reuben Bentley, who came here from Richmond, Ind., (a native of Kentucky) told of two deaths in his father's family of the milk sickness. Reuben Bentley's wife, a sister of Jesse Hill, boarded the mill hands when the Robert Hill grist mill was built. The millwright was named Stephen Shank.

Ruth Ann (Bentley) Henley cooked for the hands of a horse-power thresher one rainy week. The crowd ate thirty pies, bread, hams, chickens and all other provisions accordingly.

### OLD HOUSES.

The oldest frame dwelling house in the town is the house built by Robert Hill and sons. It went with the mill for fifty years. In 1832, when John Clark owned the mill the first time, his family occupied the house. Henry H. Macy lived in it some years. Ezekiel Coffin was born there while Elihu Coffin, his father, was at work on the mills in 1840. Ephraim Randolph and family occupied it until it was sold to Charles Bloomfield. When the mills came into the possession of Charles Henley, Stewart Aydlotte and family lived in it, and he died there. Henry Gear was miller for Charles Henley. His second wife was Mary Ellen Hill, daughter of Levi and Mabel Hill. The Gear family grew up in this house.

Several of the first dwelling houses have been moved and more modern buildings stand in their places. The house in which Harmon Allen's large family lived is now on East Street. The house built by Verlin Kersey, which was owned for a good many years by David Marshall, has been moved and is now owned by Charles Winslow. It is still on Main Street. The house that Mary Clark occupied until her death was sold to Mark Phelps. Mary Clark was the mother of John Clark. Eva Johnson's milliner shop was the first school house, which was moved from Abraham Small's. It had been used for a meeting house also before being moved from Small's.

The house now owned by Andy Taylor was the Friends' meeting house, moved to its present site to give place for the brick building in 1881.

The planing mill building was built on the first railroad for a repository for grain. It was built by Henry Henley.

### HISTORY OF THE FIRST THRESHER RUN BY STEAM. WRITTEN BY LEWIS RULE.

Lewis Rule, one of the oldest and most reliable citizens of Blue River Township, Hancock County, when asked what he knew about the origin of the steam threshing machine, gave this interesting history of that now very ordinary and withal useful piece of machinery. In the year 1865 some parties living at Carthage, Rush County, Indiana, conceived the idea of steam power for threshing wheat. Accordingly Elwood Hill, son of Jesse



Hill, and Noah Small, son of Abraham Small, went to the state of New York and after visiting several different shops they found at Troy, N. Y., a shop manufacturing portable engines, but the boilers were upright and did not suit them. They gave their plan and ordered an engine built. The first job was northwest of Carthage, on Joseph Overman's farm; the second was Jesse Hill's farm, east of Carthage. They could thresh from 350 to 400 bushels of wheat in a day. This little engine threshed wheat, made pumps, and sawed wood around Carthage for about twelve years. Then Thomas L. Marsh bought it to run a corn sheller with. The last the writer saw of it the engine was lying west of the Huston livery barn, probably on its way to the scrap heap. Edward Hillsen was the first to turn on steam to thresh wheat. I was the second. It was made of the best material and did its work well. The man that built it came all the way from New York to see it thresh. In the summer of 1857, Butler V. Morris, near Dublin, Ind., bought an 8-horsepower engine. The same year Joseph Small, son of Abraham Small, bought one. These had steam gauges, water gauges and water whistles. In the fall following, Vinton and Hassleman, of Indianapolis, got Small's engine, took it to their shops, got patterns from it and commenced to build them; Gaar Scott & Co. got Butler and Morris' engine, took it to Richmond and commenced manufacturing them. From then the whole country is flooded with steam threshers. If any one knows previous to 1856 of steam power being used for threshing, let it be known. (Testified to by Lewis G. Rule at Rushville, Rush Co., Indiana.)

#### OLD STAGE COACH DAYS BY WALKER WINSLOW, 1911.

Hugh Walker Winslow, who passed away recently in Fairmount, Ind., was once a resident of Carthage, but most of his life was spent in Grant Co. A short time before his death he gave this interesting account of his stage coach days. We feel sure this account will be interesting to his relatives and friends about Carthage.

About 1861 I secured a contract to carry the mail for \$300.00 a year from Marion to Anderson. I purchased a stage coach which cost me \$2,200.00. These vehicles sold according to their capacity at \$100.00 per passenger. My service began with the government postal service and continued for twelve years. Although the carrying of the mail was an important part of my work, it was about lost sight of so far as remuneration was concerned and I soon saw that my passenger and express business was much more lucrative. In fact I could have afforded to have paid the government \$1,000.00 per year for the privilege of carrying the mail. At the end of four years I renewed the contract for \$700.00 a year, which was the salary allowed me to the end of my service. Leaving Marion every Monday morning I made three trips to Anderson and return weekly. I could haul twelve people comfortably in my coach, but have found room for twenty-two beside myself. This was the biggest day's work I ever accomplished, my receipts amounting to \$65.00. Four horses were always attached to the wagon, and in bad weather six horses were pressed into service. The horses were changed at Fairmount, which was my home town at that time. I carried thousands of dollars in the strong box of my stage, but was never stopped by bandits and never lost a cent. I never lost a horse and was



never sick a day during my stage-driving career. I remember one time when I received \$35,000.00 in gold and silver at Anderson to deliver at the Jason Wilson bank when gold was worth almost \$300.00 in greenbacks. While a little uneasy until I had a receipt from the Marion bank, I counted this incident quite ordinary. Of the entire thirty-four miles between Marion and Anderson, there were only nine of pike and it often took eight hours to go from one town to another with six horses pulling every pound they could. I remember several times when the old corduroy roads became so near impassable that I was forced to take a two-wheeled vehicle in which I placed a large wicker basket to hold the mail sacks and leaving the stage behind made the trip to the other end of the route riding on the backs of my horses. It was simply a swamp from one end to another, with Marion a little town of 2,000 souls clustered on the banks of the Mississinewa River and Anderson boasting a population of about 4,000."

Benjamin F. Stenger relates his first acquaintance with the late Walker Winslow as follows:

"When I was about 15 years old I helped drive a flock of sheep from Carthage to North Manchester. A Mr. Comstock, of Liberty Mills, brought up 969 sheep and coralled them on the late Henry B. Hill's farm. Mr. Comstock rode on horseback. Nicholas Reiter, an old Dutchman who worked for my father weaving yarn coverlets; Kalita Clark, brother of Dr. John M. Clark, and I made up the company. I received \$0.37½ per day, walked all the way (barefoot a part of the time). We were a week going and three days coming back. The first night we staid at Eli Stafford's, near Greensboro. Somewhere along the route, probably about Anderson, Walker Winslow joined us. He was then agent for a patent beehive and carried a small model with him. He canvassed the country and sometimes was ahead of us and sometimes behind us, but spent about three days and nights in our company. We met as strangers, but found him an entertaining companion. Kalita Clark afterward started for North Carolina, but as nothing was ever heard of him his family supposed he met a foul death. He had made frequent trips to and from the South, usually on foot or stage, as there were but few railroads at that time."

### FIRST RAILROAD, IN 1848.

In 1848 a stock company built a flat-bar railroad from Knightstown to Shelbyville. The road was graded and furnished by the help of many of the Carthagenians and others who were interested in the road, but it did not last long.

### BUILDING THE PIKE ROADS.

The Turnpike from Knightstown to Arlington was built in the late 50's and a mail wagon ran between the two towns and carried passengers for a good many years and other gravel roads were built in the years that followed. They were toll roads a good many years before becoming township roads.



## EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF NATHAN PEARSON.

At the early age of six years Nathan Pearson came to Carthage with his parents, probably in 1828 or 1829, and remained until 1844. With the exception of his cousin, Mrs. Ann Ratliff, of Iowa, who is 92 years old, he is probably the only person living who can recount from his memory events of this neighborhood which transpired seventy-five or eighty years ago. In the early days he, with other farmers, drove hogs to Cincinnati market. The largest drove he ever accompanied was 2,270. Another time, while going with 600, seventy of the hogs would not swim across the Whitewater at Connersville and they had to be ferried over. A man grasped two hogs each by an ear and guided them across the stream. The river was filled with slush ice waist deep and it required three hours time to accomplish the task. The mud roads after being passed by droves of hogs were terrible. The drivers' clothes became so mud-splashed that the men would go in the rivers and creeks and wash off the mud and then go in and sit or stand before blazing fires while their garments dried on them. About twenty days were consumed in going and two days in returning. For this labor men received \$0.37½ per day. The Pearsons owned land which they sold to the Smalls. One morning as Mr. Pearson was coming down the ravine, he heard a rustling and soon discovered a herd of deer. He hid and as the animals passed he counted thirty-five. He heard the cries of many wild animals, but only one panther. The second school house in this locality was the building now occupied by Miss Eva Johnson's millinery store. It was erected on the old Small homestead and when it was moved to town in 1840 it was placed on two long logs which rested on two rough sleds. Six yoke of oxen were hitched to each sled and they drew the house to its first town site and placed it upon ground which was donated by Joseph Henley to Carthage Preparative Meeting. Henry Henley and Henry H. Macy were appointed by the meeting to have charge of the moving and it was moved in half an hour when all was made ready. According to the minutes of the Preparative Meeting the Meeting was first established in the late fall of 1839. Friend Pearson helped to cut the road from near his home to Walnut Ridge.

## PERSONAL GIFTS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

In 1839 Joseph Henley donated the school grounds to Carthage Preparative Meeting.

The same year John Clark donated to Carthage Friends the meeting house, grounds and graveyard, also one lot in Carthage for public use.

In 1872 by will Agatha (Hussey) Pusey gave \$1,000 to the Indiana State Bible Society for Bibles to be given to the poor in her native state, North Carolina.

In 1875 by will Joseph Hill, of Walnut Ridge, donated \$4,000, the interest to be used as needed for the education of the children and young people belonging to the Society of Friends, which has thus far thankfully been received by them.

In 1889 Henry Henley donated \$1,000 for the establishment of a free public library in Carthage, the law at that time requiring that sum before



a tax for the support of a public library could be obtained. He also defrayed the additional expense of establishing the library, including the purchase of cases and other furniture. In appreciation of this gift the name given the library is the Henry Henley Public Library. The children of Henry Henley have given very liberally to the library building, which since 1902 has housed the books. Two-thirds of the cost of this building was from gifts, one-third being from taxation. The community gave in sums which varied from \$1.00 to \$1,000, all the township being included in the benefits from the library from its beginning.

Henry Henley also gave the land for Riverside Cemetery across the river from Carthage.

In 1911 Luzena Thornburg, who was the first librarian of the Henry Henley Public Library, by will gave her house and lot to the library. Later they were sold for \$1,535.00.

In 1912 Eunice S. Phelps, a daughter of the founder of the library, gave \$500.00 to the library.

Thomas T. Newby in 1912 donated \$200.00, the interest to be used for the upkeep of the first Carthage grave-yard, where the first settlers lie.



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